

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-27 (Canceled)

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A passive cardiac reinforcement device for constraining outward expansion of a heart wall of a patient's heart during diastole, said device comprising:
 - (a) a jacket constructed from a biomedical material, said jacket having an apical end and a base end and a predetermined size selected to surround an external surface of said heart; and
 - (b) a marker for evaluating cardiac performance.
29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cardiac reinforcement device according to claim 28 wherein said marker for evaluating cardiac performance comprises a radiopaque marker.
30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cardiac reinforcement device according to claim 29 wherein said radiopaque marker is selected from the group consisting of platinum wire, titanium wire and stainless steel wire.
31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cardiac reinforcement device according to claim 29 wherein said biomedical material comprises a continuous mesh construction, said continuous mesh construction defining a plurality of open cells.
32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cardiac reinforcement device according to claim 31 wherein said biomedical material is sized to constrain cardiac expansion during diastole beyond a predetermined limit without substantially assisting cardiac contraction during systole.
33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cardiac reinforcement device according to claim 28

wherein said marker for evaluating cardiac performance comprises a radioluscent marker.

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cardiac reinforcement device according to claim 28 wherein said biomedical material comprises a plurality of open cells, each open cell defined by multiple sides, each open cell sharing at least one of said multiple sides with an adjacent open cell.
35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cardiac reinforcement device according to claim 28 wherein said apical end of said device is open.
36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cardiac reinforcement device according to claim 28 wherein said biomedical material is a polyester mesh.
37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cardiac reinforcement device according to claim 28 wherein said biomedical material is elastic.
38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cardiac reinforcement device according to claim 28 wherein said biomedical material is substantially non-elastic.
39. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cardiac reinforcement device according to claim 28 wherein said jacket further comprises a lateral slot for providing selective adjustment of a circumference of said jacket to a predetermined size.
40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cardiac reinforcement device according to claim 39 wherein said slot has opposing lateral edges which decrease said predetermined size of said circumference of said biomedical material by moving said opposing lateral edges together.
41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cardiac reinforcement device according to claim 39 wherein the radiopaque marker is included proximate the lateral slot.

42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cardiac reinforcement device of claim 28 further comprising an inflatable member sized for selectively adjusting said predetermined size of said biomedical material, said inflatable member sized for positioning between said device and said patient's heart and an inflation port.
43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cardiac reinforcement device of claim 42 wherein the radiopaque marker is included proximate the inflation port.
44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for monitoring cardiac performance of a heart, said method comprising:
 - (a) selecting a passive cardiac reinforcement device, said cardiac reinforcement device comprising:
 - (i) a jacket constructed from a biomedical material, said jacket having an apical end and a base end and a predetermined size selected to surround an external surface of said heart; and
 - (ii) at least one radiopaque or radioluscent marker; and
 - (b) applying said cardiac reinforcement device to said heart;
 - (c) securing said cardiac reinforcement device to said heart; and
 - (d) determining the position of the marker.
45. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 44 wherein said step of determining the position of the marker comprises viewing the cardiac reinforcement device with an x-ray or fluoroscope.
46. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 45 wherein the step of selecting includes selecting a cardiac reinforcement device comprising more than one marker.
47. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 46 wherein the step of selecting includes selecting a jacket constructed from a biomedical material

that constrains cardiac expansion during diastole beyond a predetermined limit without substantially assisting cardiac contraction during systole.

48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 46 wherein said step of determining the position of the marker comprises evaluating the position of the markers relative to one another.